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REMARKS

3 Applicant has reviewed and fully considered the December 4, 2003 Office Action in the
4 present application. The Applicant respectfully submits the following traverse regarding the
5 rejections to the claims.

6 Claims 6, 16-24, 26-28 and 30-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent
7 No. 5,989,296 to Patton et al. (Patton). Claim 6, as originally filed and previously amended, and
8 claims 16 and 30, as currently amended, are independent claims and all contain the limitation of
9 a liquid treatment zone. This limitation is not disclosed in the Patton patent. In order to provide
10 a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must show that all the limitations are found in
11 the prior art. As such, the Applicant contends that the obviousness rejection of claims 6, 16 and
12 30 are improper and respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

13 Claims 17 through 29, 36 and 37 all depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 16.
14 The Applicant contends that claim 16 is allowable. This in turn means that claims 17 through
15 29, 36 and 37 should be found non-obvious and allowable due to their depending upon an
16 allowable claim.

17 Claims 31 through 35 all depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 30. The
18 Applicant contends that claim 30 is non-obvious and allowable. As such, the Applicant further
19 contends that claims 31 through 35 should also be found to be non-obvious and allowable.

20 Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Patton in view of
21 U.S. Patent No. 2,949,337 to Oldershaw (Oldershaw). As previously mentioned, claim 25
22 depends indirectly from claim 16, which Applicant contends is allowable. As such, claim 25
23 should also be allowable. Further, neither Patton nor Oldershaw disclose any suggestion of

2 combining one with the other. For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the
3 obviousness rejection of claim 25 be withdrawn.

4 Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patton in view of
5 U.S. Patent No. 6,090,157 to Traut et al. (Traut). Claim 29 depends indirectly on claim 16,
6 which Applicant contends is non-obvious and allowable. As such, claim 29 should be held to be
7 non-obvious and allowable. Further, both Patton and Traut provide no suggestion to combine
8 one with the other. For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the
9 obviousness rejection of claim 29 be withdrawn.

10 Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patton in view of
11 U.S. Patent No. 6,615,620 to Hendrix et al. As previously mentioned, claim 37 depends
12 indirectly on claim 16, which the Applicant contends is non-obvious and allowable. As such, the
13 Applicant further contends that claim 37 should be found to be non-obvious and allowable.
14 Further, neither Patton nor Hendrix disclose any suggestions of combining one with the other.
15 For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection of
16 claim 37 be withdrawn.

17 It is believed that the foregoing is fully response to the outstanding Office Action. If any
18 other issues remain, a teleconference with the Examiner is respectfully requested. For all of the
19 foregoing reasons, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such
20 action is earnestly solicited.

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2 The Applicant hereby requests a three-month extension of time, pursuant to 37 C.F.R.
3 1.136(a), which requires a fee in the amount of \$475.00. The U.S. Patent Office is authorized to
• 4 charge Deposit Account No. 502448 (Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, L.L.P.) for the
: 5 three-month extension of time fee and any additional fees associated with the filing of this Office
: 6 Action Response.

Respectfully submitted,

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2 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
3
4

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TC 1700

5 I hereby certify that the attached AMENDMENT AND OFFICE ACTION RESPONSE is being
6 deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an
7 envelope addressed to:

8
9 Mail Stop Fee Amendment
10 Commissioner for Patents
11 P.O. Box 1450
12 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

13
14 On the 3 day of June, 2004.
15
16

Chad M Hinrichs

Chad M. Hinrichs